

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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No. 153

THE WORKS OF BRACEBRIDGE HEMYNG

Part Two

by W. M. Burns

Now we will take up the American end of the Hemyng tales, as we believe that we have gone as far as we can with the English list of tales, according to our limited amount of data. As we stated before, Hemyng came over here late in 1873 to write "exclusively" for Leslie (So Hemyng stated in a letter to the Boys and Girls of America).

Remember, Leslie had "pirated" his previous tales written for Brett.

So soon after Hemyngs arrival, appeared in Leslie's "Boys and Girls Weekly," Jack Harkaway in America" closely followed by "Jack Harkaway Out West Among the Indians." Unfortunately, I have no files of Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly to refer to. Other Harkaway tales appeared in "Boys and Girls Weekly" from thereon. Just where they stopped I am unable to say.

Yet from files of "Boys and Girls Weekly" that I have had in the past, I can positively state that Hemyng wrote a lot of tales for it, aside from the "Harkaway" and "Scapegrace" tales. From files that I once had I can remember distinctly that the first "Scapegrace" tale appeared early in 1874. Closely followed for several years, by such serials as "Will Wilding; or, The Old School by the River" ("The Boys of St. Aldates") "Spider and Stump," "Sam Sawbones," "Fatherless Bob," "Larry O'Keefe" and many others, including several tales exclusively for girls whose titles I

cannot recall offhand. But I will list most of them later on as they appeared in the Street and Smith reprints.

Now we will come down to Leslie's "Boys of America" where I am more familiar with what I am writing.

Leslie reprinted the first 4 Harkaways in "Boys of America" in addition to the same tales in "Boys and Girls Weekly." And these first four were the only ones to appear in "Boys of America." Three "Scapegrace" tales appeared there also. They were "Dick Lighthouse; or, The Scapegrace at Sea"; "Dick Lighthouse; or, The Scapegrace in London," and "Dick Lighthouse; or, The Scapegrace Among the Redskins."

The latter never reprinted in England to the best of my knowledge and never over here either. The only version of it to be had is the "Boys of America" version, in serial form. A fine long thrilling tale of 88 chapters.

"Ralph Rattle" by Hemyng is an odd tale. The first 20 chapters written in the unmistakable Hemyng style and then it seems to be the work of another and very inferior author. A new set of characters introduced and from then on to the end of the tale a "love" story, with "Ralph Rattle" playing only a minor part and chapter after chapter without even casual mention of him. My theory is that the opening installments of the tale were published before Hemyng finished it. And Hemyng becoming ill or indisposed, allowed some other author of the Leslie staff to finish the tale.

Another Hemyng tale in "Boys of America" is "The Boys in Blue; or, He Would be a Soldier." As yet I have not gotten around to read the

tale, so unable to pass judgement on it. These two tales never appeared in dime novel form over here, to the best of my knowledge.

Still another Hemyng tale is "Left His Home; or, The Fortunes and Misfortunes of a Runaway." This is the "Rob Rollalong" tale that was afterward reprinted by Street and Smith as a two volume dime novel tale and was the delight of many an American lad. This is very probably the same tale that afterward came out in Rallington's "Boys World" in 1885. These are all the Hemyng tales that give his name as author in my run of Boys of America, but there are several other tales with no authors name given, one of which I strongly suspect is the work of Hemyng. This one is titled "Wild Tom of Cambridge; or, The College Mystery." If not a tale by Hemyng, perhaps some English reader may recall the title and put me right, as to the author of it.

It is not known whether or not Frank Tousey had any arrangement with Brett, or Hemyng, to reprint the "Harkaway" and "Scapegrace" tales, but reprint them he did. Not only once, but twice in his Wide Awake Library. The "Scapegrace series ran to seven issues, while the Harkaways ran to about thirty issues. But the Tousey series seem to have been longer than the Brett series. I understand the latter ran to "Young Jack Harkaway and His Boy Tinker," and then stopped. The Tousey edition published six more after that one titled as follows: "Tinkers Man Bogey," "Young Harkaway in Spain," "Young Harkaway in Turkey," "Mole Among the Mussulmans," "Young Harkaway and the Arabs," "Young Harkaway and the Counterfeiters."

In the declining days of the Wide Awake Library, Tousey published another series of "Harkaway" tales. These were stories about Harkaway the Third. I cannot recall just how many there were of them. But would say offhand about 25. They were a very badly written, uninteresting, series of tales and if really written by Hemyng, then he had deteriorated greatly from his former greatness.

Here are a few sample titles of the tales: "Young Jack Harkaway and the Dervishes," "Young Jack Harkaway in Armenia," "Young Jack Harkaway Fighting the Bandits," "Young Jack

Harkaway in the Wilds of Siberia," "Young Jack Harkaway and the Shah of Persia," etc., etc.

While Hemyng never was a regular author on the staff of Beadle and Adams, yet they published in their Half Dime Library, several tales with his name as author given. They are as follows: "Island Jim," or "The Pet of the Family," "The Captain of the Club; or, The Rival Athletes," "Jack Harkaway in New York; or, The Adventures of the Travelers Club," "The Left-Hand Athlete; or, The Rival Sports," "On Land and Sea; or, The Perils of a Kidnapped Boy." These stories (or most of them) afterward reprinted in Beadles Pocket Library. I have read all five stories in the Half Dime Library and while one or two of them seem to be Hemyng's work, the others do not. The Beadle version of "Harkaway in New York" is certainly not the one later put out by Street and Smith under title of "Jack Harkaway in New York," in their Harkaway Library which was part of the original Leslie tale of "Jack Harkaway in America." The two stories are totally different tales in every way. About 1901 Street and Smith brought out the Harkaway Library. A thick type novel that sold for 10c. It had a run of 35 issues, starting with "Jack Harkaway's Schooldays," and ending with "Jack Harkaway and the Sacred Serpent." All reprint tales from the Brett and Leslie versions. The series were in such popular demand that Street and Smith again reprinted it a few years later in their Medal and New Medal Librarys.

While the "Harkaways" were being reprinted in Medal and New Medal Librarys, other of Hemyng's tales were coming out in Street and Smith's Bound-to-Win Library, another fine old Library, also of the thick type and selling for 10c. These were "The Fool of the Family," "Mischievous Matt," "Mischievous Mat's Pranks," "Fatherless Bob," "Fatherless Bob at Sea," "Will Wilding," "Billy Barlow," "Larry O'Keefe," "Sam Sawbones," "Too Fast to Last," "Home Base," "Spider and Stump," "Out for Fun," "Rob Rollalong, Runaway," "Rob Rollalong at Sea," "Bob Fairplay Adrift," "Bob Fairplay at Sea," etc. Later the demand was so great after the Medal, New Medal and Bound-to-Win Librarys had ceased to exist, that

Street and Smith brought out a thick 15c Library titled "Round the World Library" and the first 26 issues contained the Harkaway series complete. As it was a thicker novel containing more pages than their previous 10c Librarys, it only took 26 issues to complete the set that formerly ran to 35 issues in Harkaway Library. Then they continued with the above named stories running up to No. 43 before turning to tales by other authors. A year or two later the demand for Heming must still have been urgent, the entire lot was reprinted again.

It is difficult to form any opinion of just how many times Street and Smith would have reprinted those tales if they had continued in the novel business, but alas their fine old novels are no longer being published. Like other novels and journals they are a thing of the past now, living only in the hearts of a handful of collectors of the old literature.

Jack Harkaway! Jack Harkaway!
Its many years, alack!
Since we were joyous kids and read
The chronicles of Jack.
The merry pranks he played at school,
And jolly larks he had,
Endeared the handsome English boy
To every Yankee lad.

—By John Ludlow.

Some American firm once published the "Harkaway" series in cloth bound books, but at this late day, I cannot recall just who that firm was. Now I am aware that in this labor of love, I have probably not included some of Heming's other works. If so I would be glad to be corrected by any British or American reader of this article. As I wish all available data for my record, and I will give due credit for same, through the pages of "Roundup."

In closing, I wish to present a poem submitted to, and published by The Happy Hours Magazine under date of Jan.-Feb. 1927. The poem was written by my old friend, Mr. Paul C. Maroske and doubtless, Mr. Maroske will be surprised to see it in print again.

TO BRACEBRIDGE HEMYNG

By P. C. Maroske

To my garret you came wandering,
From your home across the sea;
And you brought the best of all
Your wonder narratives to me,
So tonight your spirits present,
By my grate fire's ruddy glow

And once more I am attentive,
To the tales of long ago.

Once again you are my visitor,
Sitting by my evening lamp.
And relate the thrilling stories,
Of the hostile Indian camp,
Or of battles with the pirates,
Or the buccaneers I trow;
As again I listen eager,
To the tales of long ago.

O'er my wall the quaint procession,
Of the shadows seem to pass;
Like the heroes of these stories
That we hear no more — Alas!
Oh, the retrospect is pleasant,
When the evening lights are low;
To commune in spirit with you
O'er the tales of long ago.

You are welcome still and welcome,
Come again and be my guest;
When the evening lamp is lighted,
And I sit alone at rest.
And the wind without is better,
But inside my embers glow;
And I'll listen once again,
To those tales of long ago.

4511 Guilford Road
College Park, Md.
May 10, 1945

An Open Letter to The Happy Hour Brotherhood:

As an amateur bibliographer the real names of the writers who hide behind such pseudos as "An Old Hunter" intrigue me. I am really a new, comparatively speaking, Dime Novel collector. I bought my first Dime Novel about 35 years ago and was for a few years an avid reader of the Frank & Dick Merriwell stories by the late beloved Gil Patten. The stack of "Tip Tops" I accumulated in those days went the way of all flesh, many years ago and it was only about 10 years ago that I became a serious collector of the Dime Novels about the Rangers—Roger's Rangers, Butler's Rangers, Texas Rangers, the famous old Border Rangers (Kenton, Wetzel and Brady), etc. I would greatly appreciate some brother writing me the answers to the questions raised below.

The answers may be of interest to other Brothers. Maybe we should have a question and answer department in "The Round Up." I know I will have

other questions later and perhaps I can answer some of the questions raised by others.

1. Who wrote "Tuscaloosa Sam," Munro's Ten Cent Novels #103? The title page says "By An Old Hunter."
2. Who wrote "Hunters and Redskins," Munro's #146? The title page says "By One Who Has Slept on the Prairies."
3. Who was "A. D. H."? He wrote "Old Ben Woolley, the Indian Scout" (Munro #162) and "The Trapper's Bride" (Munro #166).
4. Who wrote "The Leaping Panther," Munro #176? The title page says "By Carew."
5. Who wrote "Lewis Whetzel, the Scout," Munro #264? The title page says "By a Virginia Hunter."

The information will be used in the Dime Novel Chapter of my Ranger bibliography. Thanks.

J. C. Dykes.

Mr. Ralph Cummings,
Fisherville, Mass.

Dear Pard:

I have just got over a three months spell of yellow jaundice, and I am celebrating the victory over Germany, and the jaundice at the same time.

Mr. Wm. A. Settle, instructor in history at the University of Missouri is going to write to you. He is collecting data for a book he intends to call "The James Boys and the Dime Novel." Now Ralph, if you look over your collection of Round-Ups and anything you see about the James Boys send to me or Mr. Settle, and I'll personally see that they will be returned in fine shape. This goes for all the Brotherhood, and I want you to publish this and Mr. Settle's letter in your Round-up. I am sure that all who contributes to the making of this wonderful book, will be given credit in the introductory. Mr. Settle would also like to know what a complete set of Round-Ups and Happy Hours would cost and I believe he would get the University to buy them. Any information about the James Boys would be interesting. I would like for Mr. French to send all the pictures of the James Boys Weeklies, that he has, and what Mr. Settle keeps He will gladly pay him for same. I suggested to Mr. Settle that it would be a good

idea to have a whole page of the Jesse James Weekly, and a whole page of the James Boys Weekly, and many others. Probably 12 to 16 weeklies illustrated on each page.

I am thinking of sending to Street and Smith a series of stories called: NICK CARTER, JR. There was a Diamond Dick Jr., a Frank Merriwell Jr., but I don't remember ever seeing a Nick Carter Jr. It is my intention to show that Ethel and Nick had a son that on accounts of threats from Dr. Quartz, and Dazaar they kept it a secret from the world, and that Nick trained him up to be a better detective than he was, some of the cases of the Old Nick was really Nick Carter's Jr. solution. Poor Nick Carter Sr. was killed or committed suicide, no one was at that time able to find out (Frederick Van Ransallaer Day).

Here are some of the titles I intend to use; more will come to me as I go along:

NICK CARTER JR., or the Great Son of a World Famous Father.

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NICK CARTER JR. as a U. S. Spy, or the search for Ten Itchy. I would like to know. First, has anybody a complete set of the Old Nick Carter Weekly. Would he rent them to me? Second, in what Nick Carter Weekly was Chick first introduced? Was Ida Jones ever killed? Now Ralph do what you can for me, and if Street & Smith will accept you may see a better Nick Carter Jr. on the Market. Will the Brotherhood write to S&S and tell them they would like to see the New Nick Carter, Jr. Your Friend, Joe Gantner, Boonville, Mo.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Miss G. L. Elkins has a very valuable collection of theatrical material for sale. If anyone is interested, please write her, for more details than this. This is one of the best known collections in existence. These old timers are the real "highlights," and many

many interesting articles in this lot. Some of the many items are "274 Motion Picture News, 1908 up, 42 Views and Film Index 1908, 48 Film Index 1909, 5280 copies Old Sheet Music, 5 old Collections of Songs, 25 volumes Shakespeare, (Rolfe) 26 Vols. Printers Ink, Songsters, Silk Programs, Programs of all kinds, Books, Pamphlets, and What-Not. Also old plays of all kinds, 25 Beadles Hand Books, Circus books, etc., Collections of Old Photos, Photographs, 84 one-act plays, Old Bill of Fares, Old Periodicals 1855 to 1929, and others, Clipper Almanacs, 17 English Dime Novels, Collection of Freak Photos, British Negro Minstrels, Mohawk, Christie, Moore, Burgess, London, and Lots of American Minstrels too. A large lot of the Variety from 1909 up, also Antiquarian, Scrap Book, Stage and Stars, etc., Old Newspaper Clippings, Circus Programs, Buffalo Bill, Barnum etc., New York and California theatres and others, Dime Museum Posters, Dime Novel Periodicals, Race Programs, and hundreds of Bound Vols. of N. Y. Clipper, N. Y., Dramatic Mirror, The Rounder, San Francisco Dramatic Review, Broadway News, Figaro, The Theatre Mag., etc. 11 Scrap Books, Large Framed Posters, Tony Pastors, Programs, Posters, galore, why this collection was the late James Madison, famous collection, so you see, there's no junk here. There are trunks, boxes and what not, full of collectors items, and I have only skimmed over the top, so as to give everyone an idea of this famous collection, write Miss Elkins, if you are interested in a real collection. There are 24 full typewritten pages of this wonderful collection. Address, Miss G. L. Elkins, Apt. 10-E, 545W 111th St., New York 25, N. Y.

S. B. Condon, So. Penobscot, Maine, says he needs Nos. 1 to 7 of Vol. 11 of the Argosy. Can anyone help him.

Bob Smeltzer paid a \$1.65 for an ad in the Sunday Phila Record, for old novels. No luck, not even a card, so they must be more scarce than what we think.

Lou Kohrt says howdy to all the Bro. members. If you have anything in his ad. in March issue, write him, for it thrills him a lot, to go over these old timers once more.

Charles F. Heartmann, of The Book Farm, Hattiesburg, Miss., has a nice lot of Beadles Dime Novels, yellow backs, and others for sale, rare old

timers, and a set of the Deadwood Dick Library too, write him if interested.

John W. Barker, 506 E. 8th St., Brooklyn 18, N. Y. wants first editions of H. Rider Haggard books, if you fellows have any write Mr. Barker.

Doc Hunt says he's been reading novels since 1898. He's bought some novels from Charles Bragin, which he has framed, and are hung up in his drug store, while the more rare kinds are put away in tin boxes in a dark room. He wants information on a certain article that was with Tousey Staff between 1895 and 1925. See his ad in this number.

He also wants Fred Fearnots in Work and Win, prior to 1902.

The first of the Union Jack Halfpenny series appeared April 27th 1884, so H. Leckenby says and continued until Oct. 10, 1903 with 494 in all. Actually Sexton Blake was not first introduced to the world in the Union Jack. You are to be excused for thinking so, however, for the Amalgamated Press, themselves told the World so. They did not know there own history, though, for the first Blake story appeared in No. 6 of the Halfpenny Marvel (companion to the Union Jack) about five novels earlier than the U. J. which was the first therein. This fact only appears to have become known a short time ago, when a collector friend of mine was browsing in the British Museum. Three or four stories appeared in the Marvel, before the arrival of Union Jack. The first penny No. was dated Oct. 17th, 1903, and as you saw for a time the stories were of a varied type and Sexton Blake only wrote occasional appearances, Round about No. 100 however, he settled down for good, never been absent, as all main features for over 32 years, for the last number 1523 appeared Jan. 29, 1933. If we added the halfpenny numbers 494, we get a total of 1017, which was just about a record for our English boys paper. Even then it was not really the end, for the paper continued with Blake stories under the title of Detective Weekly. It was explained that this way was more appropriate. Perhaps so, but it seemed to take them a long time to find out. Personally I was sorry to see the old title go, for it was the last of a number of once popular papers. The Detective Weekly ran from Feb. 5th, 1933 to May 23, 1940 when the paper

crisis informed its end along with many others. For a short period Blake was dropped from the D. W.

As you say, Many authors wrote stories, how many in all, it is almost impossible to say. I have a list of about 60 but that is by no means the full lot. It used to be said that everyone in that series had tried his hand at a Blake story. Among the more prolific ones were William Murray Grayden, Mark Dorran, Robert Murray (son of W. M. Grayden), J. S. Brooks, Lewis Jackson, Andrew Murray, Pierre Quinoule, G. Hamilton Leed, Gilbert Chester and John G. Browdon. One other Donald Stuart, was said to have written his first Blake story on scraps of paper while down and out, on the Thames Embankment. He wrote many more later under more comfortable conditions. Numerous other Blake stories appeared in other papers, including of course, the 4d Library which bore his name. I should estimate that well over 3000 appeared altogether. That seems to put Sherlock Holmes in the shade. As a main output, they are still appearing for the Sexton Blake Library comes out with two issues per month.

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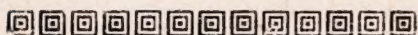
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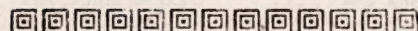


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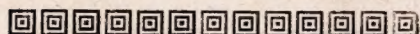
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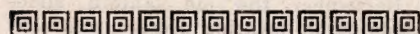


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